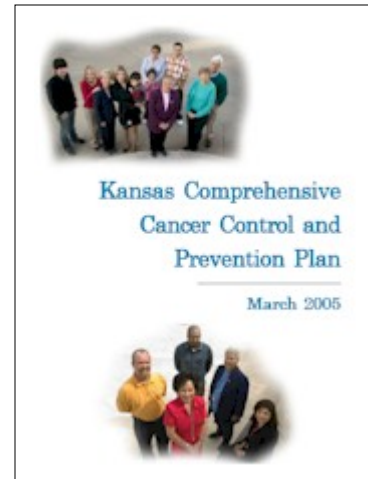


State Unveils Comprehensive Plan to Reduce Cancer

Governor Sebelius and state health officials unveiled the Kansas Comprehensive Cancer Control and Prevention Plan during a news conference March 24 at the State Capitol. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the state. Each year nearly 12,000 Kansans are diagnosed with cancer and 5,000 die from the disease.

During the past year the Kansas Cancer Partnership has worked to develop a strategic plan to reduce cancer in Kansas. The partnership is comprised of more than 65 agencies in public and private sector dedicated to identifying the burden that cancer causes in our state as well as effective approaches to prevent and reduce the disease.

“The effort put forth by the Kansas Cancer Partnership has been tremendous, and we are pleased to have a comprehensive plan which guides the actions needed to begin reducing the incidence of cancer in our state,” said Governor Sebelius. “In addition, Kansas is already taking action to address issues such as obesity, physical inactivity, and tobacco use, which contribute to cancer. Our work in these areas complements this plan.”



“Cancer prevention and control is a critical step in achieving the goal of Healthy Kansans by 2010 and beyond,” said Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Secretary Roderick L. Bremby. “This plan provides clear guidance for ways to reduce cancer in Kansas while recognizing health disparities related to differences in age, sex, socio-economics, race, ethnicity, and geography.”

The plan calls for the following actions:

- increased education, information, and communication regarding prevention and screening
- improved access to treatment and coordinated services to help newly diagnosed patients
- informing policymakers and legislators of issues regarding health insurance for poor and uninsured; coverage for medical advocacy services; and coverage for expenses involving clinical trials
- improved data collection and access to data to help target cancer prevention and screening efforts
- establishing pilot projects in communities focusing on education and information; surveillance and data collection; identification of resources and risk reduction factors.

“The Kansas Cancer Partnership's diligent work in developing this plan demonstrates the strong network of Kansas organizations and individuals whose goals are the same -

to reduce the incidence of cancer in Kansas,” said Howard Rodenberg, M.D., M.P.H., Director of KDHE's Division of Health.

“It is very likely that every Kansan will be impacted by cancer at some point in life, whether individually, or through the diagnosis given to a family member, friend, or acquaintance,” Rodenberg added. “That's why this plan is critical to each of us today as we look at ways to reduce the impact of this disease through education, prevention and screening; providing accessible, affordable health care and support networks; and targeting our efforts based on improved data and pilot projects.”

The Comprehensive Cancer Control and Prevention Plan focuses on six priority cancers and identifies approaches to addressing the burden of cancer including preventing some cancers from occurring, screening to detect cancer at its earliest stages, treating cancer with the most comprehensive and high quality treatment, and addressing survivorship and end of life issues for cancer patients.



Dr. Howard Rodenberg, KDHE Director of Health, announces key findings in the Cancer Control Plan with Gov. Sebelius and cancer survivors at a March 24 press conference in Topeka.

Gary Doolittle, M.D., Associate Professor, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, is chairman of the Kansas Cancer Partnership.

“The Kansas Cancer Partnership has done an excellent job creating this cancer control plan for the state. The challenge is maintaining the momentum by putting the plan into action. Kansas has many assets and resources on which to build, but we also have many barriers to overcome. These barriers include unequal access to cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment among various ethnic groups and among members of different socio-economic classes, and an insufficient number of trained oncologists in the state of Kansas. However, we cannot let these barriers stand in the way of achieving our goal,” Doolittle said.

A copy of the Comprehensive Cancer Control and Prevention Plan is available at <http://www.kdheks.gov/>.